

# Shore Lines

A Quarterly Newsletter of Maryland's Mid- and Upper Eastern Shore State Parks

## Knock's Folly at Sassafras NRMA: *Our Newest Visitor's Center on the Shore*

By Ranger John Ohler

The staff and I manage more than 8,000 acres from Kent County to Dorchester County in the various parks and natural resource areas of our Complex. Each one of these areas has something special that makes it truly unique, and I recommend you visit all of them so you can experience them for yourselves.

One of my favorite places we manage is Knock's Folly, a 250-year old historic house at Sassafras Natural Resources Management Area in Kent County. Construction began on the log portion of "The Folly" in 1753. The three-story main house is made of brick in the Federal Style of construction and was completed before 1800. The Folly sits on a knoll and has impressive views of Turners Creek and the neighboring area. Knock's Folly and the surrounding 17 acres was purchased by Kent County in 1974. The building was damaged by fire in 1977, and the property was transferred to the Maryland Park Service in 1991. The house was reconditioned through a unique curatorship

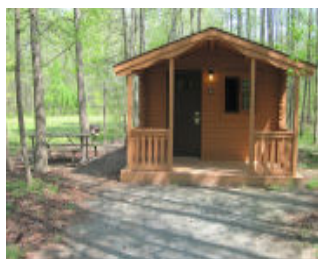


**The Knock's Folly Visitor's Center at Sassafras NRMA.**

program that is offered on historically-significant park properties. This program allows for the curators to live on the property if they agree to make repairs that return the structure to its original condition. Mr. and Mrs. John Mullin took on the challenge and made significant progress in the renovations while living in the house.

After the curators vacated, the Maryland Park Service retained Knock's Folly with the intent of making it a public visitor's center. Our staff have since made many improvements to the structure and we have

developed interesting exhibits for the public to enjoy while exploring the main house. The Folly is open to explore on weekends from May through October; I encourage you to plan a trip and suggest you plan on making an entire day of your visit. The Sassafras Natural Resources Management Area and the Turners Creek area have miles of trails to explore and breathtaking vistas overlooking the Sassafras River and out into the Chesapeake Bay. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a great day at this beautiful location in Kent County!



**2012 Tuckahoe/Martinak  
Camping Season:**

**Friday, March 30, 2012 -  
Monday, December 3, 2012**



## **TIME TO MAKE YOUR 2012 CAMPING RESERVATIONS!**

### **TUCKAHOE STATE PARK:**

- 54 campsites, 33 with electric hook-ups;
- 4 4-person camper cabins;
- 2 6-person camper cabins;
- 4 primitive youth group camping sites;
- Potable water; dump station;
- Pet-friendly

### **MARTINAK STATE PARK:**

- 63 campsites, 30 with electric hook-ups;
- 4 4-person camper cabins;
- Full-service cabin that sleeps 4; available year-round;
- Potable water; dump station;
- Pet-friendly

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## ***Greetings Park Friends!***

I am John Ohler, the manager for the state parks of the Upper Eastern Shore, and I am very excited about our new park newsletter, "Shore Lines!" It will be a great way to keep our visitors and friends informed about the many exciting things that are happening around the parks in this region. Each quarter, a new edition will come out highlighting the park activities and give you a chance to learn a little more about the great staff that help keep our parks and programs running. They are a great bunch of people and have a deep commitment to the parks and to our visitors.



## ***Inside this issue:***

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## Up a Creek: Ranger Steve Shortall's Paddle Guide

Paddling upstream out of the lake at Tuckahoe provides a trip of interest to both beginners and veterans alike. This water trail twists and turns its way through a three-mile round trip of open water and deep woodlands. The only difficulty you may encounter would be a couple of shallow spots during times when the water level is low. Spring rainfall, however, makes for a fairly easy paddle for all skill levels.

An abundance of wildlife can be seen along this flooded woodland water trail. Numerous turtles, various birds, and beaver are among the common sightings.

An especially quiet paddler may even catch a glimpse of the elusive river otter late in the day. Bass fishermen enjoy the cool, deep fishing holes upstream as well.

For those that choose not to make the return trip downstream, there is a soft landing that puts you in the non-electric loop of Tuckahoe's campground. Paddlers may also take the opportunity to hike the adjacent Lore of the Land Nature Trail.

This great water trail starts right at Tuckahoe's boathouse, which provides kayaks and canoes for rent Friday through Sunday during the park's camping season. Paddlers are reminded to observe the



**Ranger Shortall and family enjoying an outing on scenic Tuckahoe Creek.**

park's closing time of sunset. Each paddler must have a PFD (personal flotation device); youth (under age 13) must be wearing their PFD at all times in the canoe/kayak.

## Delmarva Bays: Ranger Ken Miller's Nature Notes

The Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore is home to roughly 2,000 threatened seasonal wetlands known as Delmarva bays; luckily a number of our state parks are home to these unique and mysterious ecosystems. Delmarva bays are circular depressions in the ground, up to 25 acres, that begin filling with water in the late winter and dry out again during the summer. Even though they do not hold water year round, they are considered non

tidal wetlands. These pools of water contain no fish; therefore, they create an ideal breeding place for many endangered amphibians, including the Eastern Tiger Salamander. Their creation is controversial, but one unlikely yet entertaining explanation is that whales were left to wallow as the seas receded, which created these depressions. If you would like to learn more about these special places I encourage you to read the



**Ranger Miller exploring a nearby whale wallow.**

article *Delmarva Bays, Natural Enigmas* found at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/naturalresource/spring2001/delmarvabays.html>.

## Turkey Time: Ranger Paul Detrich's Sportsman's Advice

Tuckahoe State Park offers some of the best opportunities for successful hunting, whether it be shooting a turkey or just enjoying the scenery. The first thing you do if you want to hunt the park is to make sure that you become familiar with the area by scouting; the woods look a lot different in the dark. It would also be a good idea to purchase a map from the park office or ask a Park Ranger - the map will indicate hunter parking lots, trail locations, and where to sign-in.

Turkeys were introduced on the Eastern Shore 20-25 years ago with Tuckahoe

being among the initial introduction sites. The population has continued to grow each year because of ideal habitat. I have seen as many as 70 turkeys in one flock on the park in the winter. Turkeys roost (sleep) in mature trees at night; then in the mornings the toms (males) fly down to look for hens (females). Tuckahoe's hunting area is made up of woods surrounded by fields with the Tuckahoe Creek running through the middle. In the spring the fields are tilled, which brings insects to the surface which turkeys love to eat.

Although hunting is not allowed in the

**Ranger Detrich and his son enjoy spring turkey hunting together.**



fields, you can hunt the woods. It is a good idea to listen for turkeys gobbling the night before you hunt. This can be done by mimicking the sound of an owl or crow. This technique is called shock gobbling and it helps you know where the turkeys are roosted.

Remember the park is a multi-use park. We have hikers, bikers and equestrians. Safety first! Always know what you are aiming at, and be aware of what is behind your target. Good luck and happy hunting.

# 2012 WINTER/SPRING EVENTS

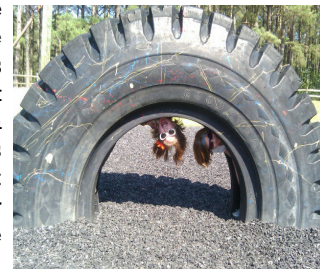
It's time to start planning your spring and summer field trips, youth group programs, Challenge Course programs, and Scales & Tales presentations and event displays NOW! Staff availability is limited so get your requests in to the park office as soon as possible.



**Tuckahoe's Birds of Prey Photo Shoot – Sat., April 28.** Come photograph the Scales & Tales hawks, falcons, owls and a special guest – a bald eagle! – in their natural surroundings. \$ 1 0 / photographer; spectators free. Event will run from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the group campfire ring area across from the softball field in the Cherry Lane section of the park.



**Weekend Events at all Parks will begin Friday, May 25** and run through Labor Day Weekend. Visitors to Tuckahoe, Martinak and Sassafras can enjoy a variety of free family activities—from crafts and games, to movies and socials, to guided trips and much more. Call the park office for details or check bulletin boards throughout the park for a schedule of activities.



**Scales & Tales: Bald Eagle Program – Sat., March 10.** Join park staff at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge's Eagle Festival. FREE. Visit <http://www.fws.gov/blackwater/pcalendar.html> for more details on this special event.

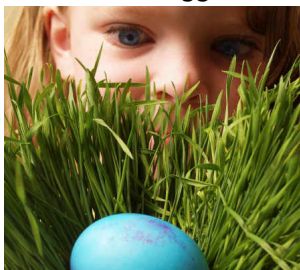
**Wye-Tri Triathlon @ Wye Island NRMA – Sat., May 5.** Triathlon consisting of three segments: a run,



paddle and a bicycle course. Open to anyone 14 years of age or older. Begins at 8

a.m.; participants should arrive early for a pre-race meeting. \$15 per person (includes souvenir event shirt).

**Tuckahoe's Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Sat., April 7.** Over 4,000 plastic & boiled eggs are hidden (special prize eggs are marked so look closely in and on your eggs!). FREE; open to children under the age of 10. Starts 1 p.m. sharp in the Cherry Lane Picnic area.



**Family Fun Day on the Challenge Course – Sat., May 12.** Enjoy a day on the Tuckahoe Challenge Course's high elements: 40' rock wall, tube net, zip line, 50' giant swing, and 25' pumper pole. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Adults 16 & older \$15; youth ages 7-15 \$10; pre-registration required.



**Looking to Make A Difference – Become A DNR Volunteer!** Becoming a volunteer is easy; there is so much that needs to be done to help preserve, protect and enhance Maryland's natural resources! You can become a DNR volunteer if you care about the outdoors, want to help improve Maryland's environment, and enjoy working with others who want to help. Donate your time on weekdays, weekends or a combination of both. Learn more at [www.dnr.maryland.gov/volunteer.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/volunteer.asp) or call the Tuckahoe park office at (410) 820-1668.



## Tuckahoe State Park Complex

13070 Crouse Mill Rd  
Queen Anne, MD 21657

Phone: 410-820-1668  
Fax: 410-364-5675



**The mission of the Maryland Park Service is to manage the natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources to provide the best use for the benefit of people.**

**If you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter via email, please contact the park office at [park-tuckahoe@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:park-tuckahoe@dnr.state.md.us)**

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5

## Calling all Friends of MD State Parks!

The Maryland Park Service's volunteer programs provide many ways for citizens to help with a number of functions. We recognize the benefit that is derived from the time and effort donated by volunteers. Individuals and groups are encouraged to become part of the statewide network of park volunteers. Thousands of volunteers in Maryland's 65 state parks and five state forests donate hundreds of thousands of service hours each year. Volunteers provide enthusiasm, energy and creativity to the wide variety of tasks they accomplish. Volunteers experience many benefits -- among them companionship, a sense of

responsibility and enhanced skills. There is an opportunity for everyone!

Your local state parks (Sassafras, Tuckahoe, Martinak, Wye Island, and Bill Burton Fishing Piers) are currently seeking volunteers. Opportunities are available in Scales & Tales, special event help, gardening, trail stewardship, camp hosts, and much more. Please visit <https://ec.volunteernow.com/custom/1289/> to learn more.

*Volunteers and Park Supporters are truly a valuable resource to the park staff. The Tuckahoe Complex is fortunate to have a Friends group that supports the parks by volunteering*



**Ranger Conley and one of the Scales & Tales program's Red- Tailed Hawks.**

*and offering financial support for park events such as Tuckahoe's Easter Egg Hunt, Martinak's Fall Fest and Santa's Magic Workshop. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Tuckahoe Complex's Friends Group, contact the park for more details or email park manager John Ohler at [johler@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:johler@dnr.state.md.us).*